

**Folder 21:  
Webster,  
Jackson L.  
(Sitka)  
1939-1940**

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

January 11, 1939

Dr. J. M. Somerndike  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike,

When I told the session of your determination to come to Sitka this year they were very much pleased and voted to wire you as we did yesterday:

Session votes to wire their appreciation of your promise to visit Sitka this year but urge that you come before May when school closes and many fishermen are gone. Want you to see church problems with full attendance and program. Tourist season poorest time to judge our work and needs.

First Presbyterian Church  
Roland Wurster, Clerk

I am sorry but not surprised to hear of Bishop Rowe's attitude. Miss Voss' hope of union was most attractive, but a little too good to be true. It would have meant a solution of the race problem and the denominational problem at Sitka, both in one. Inasmuch as there were two Presbyterian Churches in Sitka, one for whites and one for natives, before St. Peters was built, it is hard to see how Bishop Rowe holds us guilty of breaking the law of comity.

Mr. Yaw and I talked this matter over with Miss Voss when she was here, but did not tell the session of it, nor anyone else. I think it would be wise to continue that policy. We will lose ground by publicity. I will simply try to maintain friendly relations with Mrs. Molineaux and say nothing about the matter. I usually preach for her at the occasional services she holds during the year.

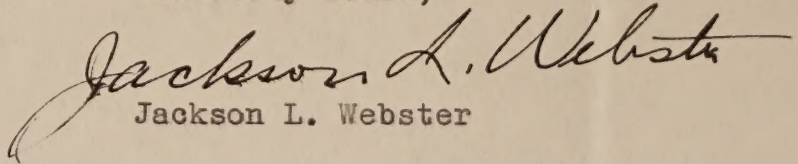
I am puzzled by your reference to our "native church in Sitka for our native congregation." Have you forgotten that we gave up the separation between whites and natives some years ago and are now building a mixed church and a mixed congregation? At many of our services there are more whites than natives and the proportion of white members is steadily increasing. Regardless of Bishop Rowe's feelings toward us, we are ministering to a much



larger number of white people each week than is the Episcopal Church. It is also an interesting fact that some of Mrs. Molineaux's S. S. children are partly native.

Thankyou for taking the matter up with the Episcopal Board. I wish with all my heart that denominational competition could be ended between us.

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jackson L. Webster". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jackson L. Webster

JLW:RW



First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

Jan. 20, '39

Narrative Report

Christmas on Sunday was a truly blessed day for us. S.S. and Church combined for the morning service, then I preached at the Episcopal service, then dinner, then service at the Pioneer Home, S.J.S. Pageant in the evening - one of the best they have ever produced. Santa Claus came early Sunday morning and we all sang "Gather Around the Christmas Tree" as we marched in to get surprised and delighted. Having the celebration on Sunday emphasized the religious significance of the holiday and produced a more Christian spirit. I preached to about 400 people at our own service, the Episcopal, and the Pioneer Home service in the afternoon. And the church was packed for the beautiful pageant the school put on in the evening. Then we had a fine evening on the last day of the year with a social, at which the men furnished the refreshments - cooking and serving (very superior), and our usual watchnight service from 11 to 12 ending with candle lighting: "I light my candle for Christ in the new year."

J. L. Webster



Feb.  
7th  
1939

Rev. J. L. Webster,  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Webster:

There is no hope that I will be able to come to Alaska in the Spring. According to my present plans, I will be there during the month of July. That is the earliest that I can get away from the office.

I am delighted to learn of the poster and essay contest on "The Harmful Effects of Liquor" which is being sponsored by the Committee on Religious Education of Alaska Presbytery. I compliment you on the splendid way in which you have prepared the plan. I am wondering how you are going to finance it, but I am sure that you have carefully looked into this matter and that the necessary funds for the prizes have been provided.

With every good wish, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH



February 21, 1939

Rev. Jackson L. Webster  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Webster:

In view of the exigencies of the financial situation I have decided not to come to Alaska next summer. Since our expenditures must be curtailed at every point in cooperation with the Board's purpose to avoid a deficit and realizing as I do that such curtailment will retard the work in mission fields, I cannot conscientiously spend the money that would be required to pay my expenses on an Alaska trip. We shall hope for better things next year.

Sincerely,

JMS:TL



First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

March 8, 1939

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

*no off printing for  
made for Sitka church  
1939*

Rev. J. M. Somerndike  
156 Fifth Ave,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Somerndike,

We are greatly disappointed at the news that you will not be able to come to Alaska this summer. We had counted on your coming to settle the matter of our new building. We have been frustrated in the project by one thing after another for the past four years so you can understand why this news hurts us. Despite our inadequate building, the church and Sunday School go on growing; and so we need the building much worse now than we did when we first began to work for it and to ask for the Board's help on it. Many members of the Building Committee are so discouraged by the many delays that they are advocating the use of our building fund to make an addition to the old building. But others of us feel that it would be a mistake to give up our efforts for the new building, which the growth of our town and church demand, and spend money that has been given for that purpose to patch up the old building which will never be satisfactory.

We are still working on plans for the building on the site approved by presbytery two years ago. Miss Voss's idea of union with the Episcopalians was interesting, but having proved vain, must be dropped. Even if the bishops were willing, it would be a hard thing to work out because of the race problem we face. It is hard for anyone who does not live with our situation to realize the value to us of having the church located at the school campus. It is an oasis from the race prejudice of the town and therefore the best place to succeed with our mixed church project. Also the town as I have often told you before is steadily moving our way. Another reason for not building down town is that the "Tower Apartments" (formerly the White Presbyterian Church) would not be a good neighbor. Do you think so? And remember that our present location is less than three fourths of a mile from the most distant white homes and just one fourth of a mile from the white school.



I wonder if you would not be willing to do with us what you did with the Juneau Church--leave the matter of location to the Committee of National Missions for settlement? If Fred Thorne comes, perhaps you would like to have him consult with them as your representative. But we are very eager not to be blocked for another year by lack of proper equipment for the growing educational and social work of the church. We can get along with the present auditorium. It is anything but beautiful; and it is hard to heat; but it is still large enough for our congregations.

This leads me to another question: Would you approve of our building in two units, the first (educational) to be built this summer, the second, a new auditorium, to be added when we are able to raise the money? And would the Board be willing to match what we can raise ourselves? Say about five thousand from each for the first unit? A fifty-fifty arrangement will be better than you have had on any other building project in the presbytery, under your administration, will it not? If you can offer this to us, I believe I can raise the necessary pledges during the next two months and collect them by October first. If we move fast, maybe Fred can get a picture of Unit 1 in his color reels.

We will deeply appreciate an early reply by air to these two proposals with the hope that we can get our campaign for funds made before school is over. With kindest regards, I am

Faithfully Yours,

*Jackson A. Wilster*



Mar.  
25th  
1939

Rev. Jackson L. Webster,  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Webster:

No doubt by this time you have received the announcement of Dr. Somerndike's sudden death. His passing has left a deep void in our work and in our hearts, but we are bravely trying to carry on as we know he would want us to.

I have consulted with Dr. Morse with reference to your letter of March 8th. He advises me to inform you that it will not be possible for the Board to make any appropriation for the Sitka church building before the new budget year goes into effect: October 1st. The building funds available this year are completely allocated.

I would suggest that you secure an estimate of the cost of the building which can be submitted for approval of the Board together with a definite statement of the amount to be paid locally.

Concerning the location of the building, it undoubtedly would be a good idea for the Presbytery to act on this matter and submit its recommendations. You might also take up the matter with Mr. Thorne when he is in Sitka.

Very sincerely yours,

UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.

BH



# First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

April 5th, 1939

Rev. H. N. Morse,  
Board of National Missions,  
156 Fifth Avenue,  
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Morse:

Thank you for your letter of March 15th notifying us of the death of Dr. Somerndike. We were sorry that the word hadn't reached us at our meeting of the Presbytery held March 20th. It was quite a shock when we came home and found the message that he was gone. He did a great work and we know that God will have a great reward for him. I only wish that we could all have his industry and faithfulness to his task.

The last mail brought a letter from Miss Hopp answering my letter of March 8th to Dr. Somerndike. Miss Hopp said that she had consulted you on the matter, so I am taking the liberty of writing direct to you and asking your help in our building project. You may remember my talking with you about it when I was in New York in 1935, but you will be more apt to remember the conference that you and Dr. Somerndike had with Mr. Yaw last summer when he was at General Assembly. He felt very much encouraged, as we all did, by the assurances that you men gave him at that time of your willingness to help us. We have suffered several delays since then due to difficulties with our architects and the question of location. We have engaged Mr. Earl Dugan, of Tacoma, as our architect. He was the local architect on the First Presbyterian Church of Tacoma, built about ten years ago. We are corresponding with him now regarding plans for an educational unit of the building with the idea of postponing the building of our new auditorium until a later date. Our present auditorium is crowded many Sundays, but our worst need is for new educational and social rooms. We have our Sunday School departments and classes sprinkled around in various buildings and houses and working under the handicap of poor equipment. Mrs. Webster's Primary Department, for example, with an attendance of more than thirty children, has no small chairs and tables because there is no room to store them between Sundays in the girl's dormitory where they are meeting. Another serious lack is a dining room and kitchen where we can hold church dinners. Our work is growing steadily, but would grow



more rapidly if we had proper equipment and room.

As to the matter of location, our committee is unanimous in its feeling that the new building should be built on the site of the old one, or rather on ground immediately adjoining the present building a little further from the road. The Presbytery approved this site two years ago and reconfirmed its approval at the meeting just past. Any opposition to the present site has come from people outside of Sitka who have not lived with our situation. One of our central problems is the building up of the united church for native and white people to take the place of the two separate churches we formerly had. In doing this the Sheldon Jackson School forms a connecting link which is extremely important to us. Hence, the value of having the church situated on the campus. Both natives and whites have a friendly feeling toward the school and make a practice of attending games and the programs there on a mixed basis. The native people feel that if the church were taken away from the campus into the so-called white section of the town it would become a white church in which they were not on an equal footing. The white people of the town are attending our services in steadily increasing numbers. This is due partly to the growth of the town and the coming of new people who do not share old prejudices from the days of separate churches. It is also due partly to the fact that the town is steadily moving and growing up in the direction of the Mission campus. There is a strong probability that the fishermen's small boat harbor will be built immediately in front of the campus and if this happens the situation of the church will immediately become more central. In any event the distance between the church and the business section where the former white church was located, is only half a mile. The old white church proved a failure and was dissolved. The building has been sold and remodeled as an apartment house. It hardly seems good sense or good taste either to go back and build a new building in that same locality. We hope that the board will be willing to accept the judgment of our church and the Presbytery on this matter without further discussion; but we will, of course, be glad to explain any further questions that may arise regarding it.

In Miss Hopp's letter she made the statement that there could be no aid from the board before the new budget year beginning October 1st. We would like to apply definitely for aid as of that date. We hope that you will feel that the growth of our town and church and also our steady movement toward self support will justify it. If there is a blank to be filled out please send it to me.

Very sincerely yours,

*Jackson A. Webster*



May  
12th  
1939

Rev. J. L. Webster,  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Webster:

I am sorry that I have not had an earlier opportunity to reply to your interesting letter of April 5th. In the meantime the Board has elected Dr. Everett B. King as the Secretary who will have oversight of the work in Alaska. In due time Dr. King will be getting in touch with you and will advise with you concerning your building problem.

The situation with respect to our building funds is such that I cannot now give you any assurance as to when it may be possible to make a grant for the Sitka church. I consider it extremely unlikely that it will be possible to make a grant this Fall as you urge.

Since that is the case, there is no need for me now to discuss with you the question of the site for the new building. I do not profess to be familiar with your local conditions. I have a general feeling that it is not wise to erect on a school campus a church which is expected to minister to a town community. However, there are doubtless local considerations in your case that must be taken into account. This is a question which Dr. King will be able to take up with you later.

I regret that we cannot open the way for you to go ahead at once with the construction of this much-needed building.

With best wishes, I am

Cordially yours,

HNM:BN

H. N. MORSE

Administrative Secretary.





Hoonah, Alaska

Aug. 9th. 1939

Board of National Missions

156 Fifth Ave. N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:-

At our last meeting of the National Missions Committee held a few weeks ago we were appointed to go to Klawock and Craig for the purpose of conducting a Vacation Bible School and at the same time hold services and do what we could to encourage our people in these two villages.

We have just finished our work there and want to inform you as soon as possible of the critical situation of our work there. A strong man should be placed on these fields just as soon as he can be found. The National Missions Committee have already sent word to the Board protesting against sending Mr. Kaiper back to Klawock. After our visit we are more thoroughly convinced than ever that he should not be allowed to return to Alaska. One of the elders told us that the people were losing all respect for the church and reverence for the Bible, and that it would take a long while to get the people back into the church again.

At Klawock the Roman Catholic Church is very active just now in trying to establish themselves in the village. When we arrived we found the Catholic priest conducting morning mass in the church. One morning we had to get him out of the way before we could open our Bible school.



I am sure we do not need to trouble you with further detail but we would like to have you understand that there is a strong feeling at Klawock that Kaiper should not return and that the Board should send a man there at once.

When he arrives some one here that is acquainted with the people should be with him and help him get settled in his work.

Sincerely,

*Jackson L. Webster*  
Missionary at Sitka

*R. V. Bromley*  
Missionary at Hoonah



# Narrative Report

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

Aug. 21, '39

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

This is written aboard the Princeton at Juneau where I am serving this month as the itinerant missionary. Mr. Bromley has been with me much of the time and we have had a very happy fellowship together with Jack Falconer, our "Skipper". The only serious friction has ~~been~~ arisen over the proper strength for our coffee. Jack and I agree that Bromley is the Champion hotcake maker.

We left Sitka July 26<sup>th</sup> for Prince of Wales Island and conducted Bible schools at Craig and Klawock <sup>for one week,</sup> morning and afternoon. We also conducted three services at each church, taking turns in preaching. Father Budd of the Roman Catholic Church was spending <sup>two weeks</sup> at Klawock, apparently with a view to organizing a church there.

Leaving Craig on Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> we ran to Watfall, largest cannery in S.E. Alaska, and held a service there that evening in the webloft with an attendance of 32, mostly Hydraburg people. Next day we held a Bible School with three classes and 22 children. An interesting bit of evidence that not all our teaching on these cannery visits are forgotten came to me from a bright-faced boy who greeted us on the float at Watfall. "Do you remember when you were my horse?" he asked. I didn't at first but finally remembered that on a similar visit last year I had used the story of the Good Samaritan with my class of juniors.



and after telling the story had dramatized it. Johnny was the wounded man and I was the Samaritan's donkey. "Can we do it again?" I agreed and so Johnny got another ride in our class next day. He is but one of the large number of children who told us of two fathers or mothers. "I'm going to live with my real mother next year" said one boy. "My stepmother don't treat me very good." The Indians are absorbing American civilization.

Witfall was the first of five canneries we visited on successive days, holding a service each evening. The run from Steamboat Bay to Tyee was the only rough trip we had. I cooked breakfast and ate some, but was not quite so successful as the Skipper at retaining my scrambled eggs. Brownly wouldn't even get up. I figured I was better off than he: for is it not written

"'Tis better to have loved and lost  
Than never to have loved at all."

Our largest service was at Hawk Inlet where 80 people sat on boxes in the warehouse. After holding morning service at Hoona Aug. 6<sup>th</sup> we ran over to Excursion Inlet for the evening service and Bible School in the afternoon. Monday we spent at Gustavus, holding service at the house of one of the homesteaders. Almost all the people on the point were there. After an adventure in making strawberry jam, the Skipper and I went on to visit Tinakli and Todd canneries on our way to Sitka where I filled my own pulpit Aug. 13<sup>th</sup>. Walter Soboleff and Gibson Young each took a morning service while I was away.



Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> we set out again for the outside of Chichigoff Island, holding services at Old Chichigoff Monday, Newst-Chichigoff Tuesday and Elfin Cove Wednesday evening. Stopping at Honah to pick up Mr. Bromley and Eugene we made Juneau Thursday. The responses at both mines were encouraging and certainly more frequent visits should be made.

We dedicated the new Memorial Church last night but I will let Mr. Waggoner tell about it. I was sorry to be the only member of Presbytery present to help Mr. Waggoner, but know you would all have rejoiced with him in the splendid new building, if you could have been there. Poor Mr. Bromley was flat on his back in the hospital, having been operated on for hernia the day after we arrived. He was miserable yesterday afternoon but seemed much better today when Mr. Waggoner and I visited him.

We will be leaving in the morning for Haines to get the new 7<sup>th</sup> graders for S. J. S.

Jackson R. Webster  
Deborah & Missionary  
Mr. S. Princeton



JACKSON L. WEBSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SITKA, ALASKA

Aug. 28, '39

Dr. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

I intended to write you again on the Princeton as we came south from Haines, but things were a bit too thick. We brought a group of children back to Juneau for tonsil operations before coming on to Sitka. I am still trying to get things fixed up with Mr. Gibbs regarding the Princeton's carrying capacity but have not succeeded yet.

There is another urgent matter I want to write you about. It should have been settled last month. In the N. M. recommendations of the spring meeting of our presbytery, you will find a plea for a scholar ship for Mr. Gibson Young, one of our candidates for the ministry. He has served as a lay pastor in several of our native churches and is about thirty years old. He is a graduate of Sheldon Jackson (high school) and also did part time work with me



along the lines of an elementary seminary course.

However, the standards of our native churches are steadily rising, as more and more of the members become educated; and incompletely trained ministers are less acceptable as the years pass. Consequently the presbytery feels that Gibson should have further training. He is not able to finance it himself and we are hoping that the Board can help him.

As a college freshman and a married man he would not be eligible for Board of Education scholarships. Our idea is to have him go to Dubuque and take a combination college- and seminary course.

At present we have no ordained ministers of native blood, although at least three fourths of the church members in our presbytery are of Indian blood, most of them mixed. One young man, Walter Soboleff, will graduate from Dubuque seminary this year and be eligible for ordination. We hope that Gibson can also get further training and be ordained.

May I suggest that we try to plan an appointment for Mr. Soboleff for January first. He expects to complete his work with this semester. He will be



JACKSON L. WEBSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SITKA, ALASKA

our first fully trained native minister in Alaska.

As for Gibson Young, if you are too rushed to attend to the matter now, perhaps it could be arranged for him to enter Dabunuey in January.

I am writing as his pastor as well as a member of the W. M. Committee which recommended him for the scholarship.

Another matter which I must lay before you is the application of our church for aid in our building project. We are the largest church in the presbytery, have the largest Sunday School, but are still using a one room plant. We are very anxious to build a church that will enable us to develop a fuller program and do all our work better. At present, for instance, we have no place to hold a church dinner, no room for any group such as the Women's Missionary Society to meet.

Sitka is growing more rapidly than any other city in Alaska and we are the only Protestant Church maintaining a pastor. This situation



presents a very important opportunity which we should not fail to meet.

We have tentative plans for the building and estimate that it will not cost less than twenty thousand dollars, probably more.

We are asking for a \$10,000 grant from the Board and believe that we can raise the rest ourselves.

We are not a self-supporting church and do not feel that it would be wise for us to go into debt and thereby check the progress we have been making steadily toward becoming a self-supporting church.

I appeal for your help in this matter, Dr. King, with the assurance that it will be a good investment of the Board's funds. I shall of course be happy to discuss the matter further with you and answer any questions that may come to you.

Sincerely Yours

Jackson L. Webster



Aug.  
29th  
1959

Rev. Jackson L. Webster,  
Sitka, Alaska

and

Rev. E. E. Bromley,  
Hoonah, Alaska

Gentlemen:

We are in receipt of your letter of August 9th regarding the importance of placing a missionary in charge of Craig and Klawock at the earliest possible moment. We are already corresponding with several candidates regarding this field so that we shall have their credentials on hand for Dr. King's consideration upon his arrival in the office next week.

Appreciating your solicitude in behalf of these fields and assuring you that we shall do everything possible to man these fields at the earliest possible moment, I am

Cordially yours,

BH UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.



Sept.  
7th  
1939

Rev. Jackson L. Webster,  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Webster:

I have your interesting letter of August 28th and have read through it carefully, trying to study the contents. You will appreciate better than I do how difficult it is to administer to a field so far removed from the office as the field of Alaska is. Therefore, I am going to draw on your patience and good will constantly. As soon as possible I expect to visit Alaska and become acquainted by first-hand contact. Until that time we will have to do the best that we can.

I was extremely interested in what you had to say about Walter Soboleff. I sincerely hope that I will have an opportunity of meeting him and talking to him. By all means we will try to locate him in some good field. I am not in a position just now to make a definite statement, but after some more investigation we will try to do the thing that will make everyone happy.

In regard to Mr. Gibson Young, it would have been fine to have secured a scholarship for him so that he might have entered Du-  
buque this Fall; but of course that is out of the question. I will make diligent search in the effort to find some way to secure a scholarship for him to enter in January. If and when I find something I shall be glad to pass the good word on to you.

I note with interest what you have said about the work in Sitka, and particularly the proposed new building program. I have some scattered information here in the files about this project. I wish you would take the time to write me in full about your tentative plans. No doubt I could gather all that you can tell me from sources here in the office, but that would demand going through the files. It will be easier for you to write me directly. When I receive your information and suggestions, then I can compare them with the information on this end of the line and will be able to talk more intelligently to you about it.

I shall be glad to hear from you regularly; and when the problems arise, please know that I will do my best to be of service.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BN

91-15 Herick ave,  
Forrest Hill

BP-8-4672 W.



# First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

September 7, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King,

I have just returned from another trip on the Princeton; but hope to stay on dry land for a while this time. The Princeton is on her second student-gathering trip and will be in here late tomorrow night. Breakfast will not be popular tomorrow morning for they will be in rough water till about noon. I cooked breakfast, ate it, and lost it, on that same stretch of water about three weeks ago, when we were visiting the canneries.

I am writing to ask that you consider Mrs. Webster and me for the vacancy that Mr. and Mrs. Laggoner are leaving at the Memorial Church in Juneau. We have been serving the church here at Sitka for eleven years and have the feeling that a change might be good both for us and the church. Also we are deeply interested in the religious situation in Juneau and the opportunities for service afforded by the new location and the fine new plant of the Memorial Church. Many of the members of the church are former students of Sheldon Jackson during my pastorate here and former members of my church. Through my many visits to the church I have become acquainted with most of her other members and also understand the problems and opportunities the church faces. So I would not be a stranger going in with everything to learn on an unknown field. Our situation at Sitka is in some ways similar to that in Juneau (the race problem for example) and I feel sure that our experience here will serve us well if we are sent to Juneau.

There is no trouble in our church here, back of this request to be transferred. So far as we know, we have the good will of all our members; and if it should be the will of the Board and Presbytery that we remain here, I am confident that God will use us in a worthwhile year of service. But we feel that it is an opportune time for a change in leadership here and that a new man might succeed in things which we have not achieved.

September 7, 1939

In going to Juneau, we will be going to a harder field in many ways. The living expenses will be higher because of leaving Sheldon Jackson which gives us free electricity and the privilege of trading at their cooperative store. Here our church is the only Protestant church; there we would be one of many, with unavoidable problems arising. Here we have the staff of S.J.S. as members of our church and constant helpers in our work; there we will have practically no trained leadership. But these very things are a reason why we feel we should change to another field. For eleven years we have had the largest church, the most favored pastorate. We would like to face the task in a harder field before we get too old! (We are both forty-seven now.)

Two people that know our work and whom you can reach quickly are Miss Voss, your fellow secretary, and Mr. John H. Scheide of Titusville, Pennsylvania, principal donor to the new building of the Memorial Church.

It is my hope that the Memorial Church will not be left vacant. A program should be organized immediately upon Mr. Taggoner's departure Oct. first. I am also hoping that we will not be left in suspense on the matter any longer than necessary. With kindest regards, and hoping to hear from you soon, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Jackson L. Webster*  
Jackson L. Webster



Sept.  
18th  
1939

Rev. Mr. Jackson L. Webster,  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Webster:

Thank you for your interesting letter of September 7th. I appreciate your attitude and respect the spirit that was manifested in your letter.

No decision has yet been reached in naming Mr. Waggoner's successor. I am reserving the right to move cautiously and carefully. I do not expect to permit any unnecessary delay, thereby causing the work to suffer. However, I do not want to rush into the appointment and thereby tear down what has been built up during the years.

I have written to Mr. Scheide about you. Prayerfully, I can assure you, I will consider everything that you have said in your letter. I hope the Lord may lead us in doing that which will be best for His work.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BN

# First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

October 11, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

I think I have not written you since September 7th when you also wrote me. Thankyou for that letter and the later one written September 18th. The delay in settling the matter of my possible change in pastorate makes it harder to think of leaving Sitka. I have just mailed my application for aid to Mr. Pederson, our N. M. chairman, together with an outline of our objectives and program for the current year, which is now well begun. I will find it hard to leave this church after having gotten into the work again. When I wrote you about the change, I had been away most of the summer working on the Princeton. However, none of the facts I cited in my former letter are changed and I am ready to abide by the judgement of the Board and Presbytery. I will hate to leave my session here. They are a fine group of men, very different from the present session in Juneau. But perhaps that is a good reason why I should go -- to start building a real session and program there.

I have bad news to report regarding Walter Soboleff. Just as they started for Dubuque, Mrs. Soboleff got a report on a test which showed that she had active tuberculosis. She is now in a sanitarium at Dubuque and Walter is back in seminary. It means that we cannot hope to have them on a field in less than a year and it may be much longer before she can return.

Gibson Young is working for the C.C.C. here now and we hope a scholarship can be arranged for him.

As regards the building, Mr. Wolfe, clerk of our Building Committee, has written you and asked the architect to send you a copy of our tentative plans; so I will not go into details. We all wish the Board would stop blocking us on the matter and allow us to go ahead and build. "Hope long delayed maketh the heart sick." If you could visit our Sunday School and see classes in every corner of the church auditorium and a lot in between corners, being disturbed by each other; or if you could join the secretary's search party as he delves into various homes and buildings seeking out other groups; or, if you had to face the difficulties of trying to develop a complete

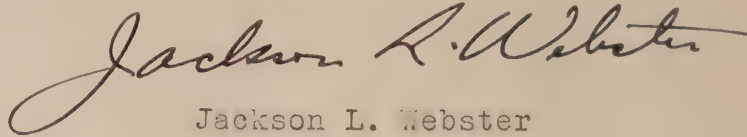


October 11, 1939

program with no plant except a large auditorium, with no kitchen or plumbing in the building; I am sure your heart would yield to our requests.

Thanking you for your careful consideration of these matters, I am

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jackson L. Webster". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jackson L. Webster

Jackson L. Webster

*Old Mail*

November 4, 1939

Rev. Mr. Jackson L. Webster  
First Presbyterian Church  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Webster:

I have received the building plans and other information that you have had passed on to me. These plans are very interesting and I am spending some time studying them. From all the reports that I have been able to gather, there is no question about your Church having a pressing need for a new building with adequate quarters for Sunday school and devotion. I can assure you that I am whole-heartedly in accord with the endeavor.

There are certain details that we must clear before any program can be definitely promoted. In other words, I am asking you to be patient with me for a little while yet. It is my plan to be in Alaska next April. Would it be asking too much of you to ask you to stay off any definite work until that visit is made? I do believe that we could come to a better agreement and a closer understanding after the visit.

Cordially yours,

EBK:TTL



# First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

November 4, 1939

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City, New York

Dear Dr. King:

Thank you for your remembrance of us on October 17th according to the Missionary Prayer Calendar. When I was in New York in 1935, I had the opportunity of speaking to the Board secretaries at the daily devotional service and told them of the experience we had had a few years before. Our little three-year old boy was killed in a gun accident on Saturday. The next day our names were listed in the Prayer Calendar. You can imagine how much it meant to us that all around the world fellow Christians were lifting us up to God in their prayers. I know that God is hearing the prayers that are being offered on our behalf for he is blessing us in our work and leading us to higher ground.

We have been looking forward for two years to the enlargement of our Naval Base at Sitka. In spite of that however, the way the town is growing comes as something of a shock to us. When the Territorial School closed last spring, there were a hundred and twenty students. When it opened in the fall, the enrollment was a hundred and sixty. New people are coming to Sitka and new students to the two public schools each week. We look for an increase of one thousand in our population this winter--about thirty-three and a third percent. I have not succeeded in keeping up with the new people and there are many families on whom I have not called besides the large number of single men--fishermen and construction workers whom the church has not reached. We talked the matter over at our last Session meeting and agreed to ask the Board to give us an assistant pastor to help in this work with the new residents. The Navy Base construction will last for three years. Then the construction workers will be replaced by approximately the same number of Navy men and their families. In addition to this, the town is growing rapidly as a fishing center. Most of last year's growth was due to that cause. So we do not think that the growth is a temporary boom.

It so happens that we have with us at the present time a young man named Richard Nelson, who fished here during the summer, then spent about a month helping on the Princeton, and during the month of October has been working here at the manse, remodeling our back porch. He is a very earnest Christian and an able personal worker. We feel that he would be very valuable to us in the emergency situation we face of contacting these new working-men and their families. He has done two years of college work and has had a varied experience in industrial work. He is engaged to a young woman in Seattle who is active in the work of the Oxford Group movement. They would like to be married and settle in Sitka, and hope to give their whole time to religious work. Nelson is willing to serve at the regular salary of our lay workers, and we are hoping that the Board will be willing to undertake this new salary.

We have a dwelling house rented on the water-front which we have been using for weekly interpreted services for the Indian people living in that district.

November 4, 1939

The Base construction work is nearby and we feel that it would be a very effective move to equip the place as a neighborhood house and develop a seven-day program of hospitality, recreation, and religion. I think that Nelson would be very effective in this position.

We are now investigating the possibility of purchasing this property and I will write you again when we learn the possibilities and prices.

About two months ago I sent Mr. Pederson <sup>he sent you</sup> an inventory of the furnishings and equipment of our church and manse. I presume that he has forwarded this to you before now. I am therefore returning your inventory sheet giving only real estate figures and leaving the other portions blank.

A recent letter from Mr. Pederson tells of Sam Johnson's decision not to go to Kake and asking as to the possibility of Gibson Young's taking the field for the winter. Mr. Young and his wife are willing to go to Kake and Mr. Frank Price and myself (members of the National Missions Committee of Presbytery) join in recommending him. We shall be sorry to have him leave us this winter for he is a great help in our young people's work. I deeply regret that the Kake field has been left vacant so long and hope that you will act quickly in sending Mr. Young to the field.

May I also express my regret at your inability to man the fields at Craig and Klawock. Our churches there have now been without pastoral leadership since last May. The forces of evil, especially the saloons, have been on the job twenty-four hours a day. Small sectarian groups are also taking advantage of the situation to strengthen their position and thereby to make the work more difficult when a pastor does come. We had a promise from Miss Hopp, written early in the summer, to the effect that the field would be supplied soon and saying that she had the names of several possible pastors to present to you as soon as you took office. Needless to say, it has been a great disappointment to us who share with you in the responsibility for these churches that November has come but the fields are still vacant. I sincerely hope that you will get a man there before the beginning of December.

I receive the list of vacant churches from the Department of Vacancy and Supply in Philadelphia and wonder why the Board of National Missions is not using this sheet as a means of publicity for its vacant fields. Would it not be worth considering?

The delay in getting an answer to our proposal that we be moved to the Memorial Church in Juneau has lead me to feel that the matter should be dropped for this year. We are now involved in our year's program here and it would be unfortunate to have to discontinue it and leave this church vacant even for a short time. We are still hoping to receive your approval of our plan to begin building our new church. Presbytery as given its approval for the past three years, and we hope that the Board will at least help us by saying, "Go ahead and start building". We have faith to believe that we will be able to finish the building for it is a very real need which our people recognize.

In all these things, Dr. King, I realize that you hesitate to act because of your lack of acquaintance with the fields involved. It is my feeling, however, that you should put some faith in the judgment of our Presbytery and follow our recommendations without making the long wait to get first-hand information yourself. The money is already budgeted and we are face to face with the facts and have no other desire than to build up the Lord's work. Souls are being lost and the Body of Christ weakened by every day of delay.



November 4, 1939

I know you share with us in the deep regret all Presbyterians must feel in the loss of the Princeton. She has done a vast amount of useful work and helped greatly in the building up of our church in Alaska. We hope that all the officers and members of the Board will immediately undertake the task of building a new boat to take her place. I do not know who made the large contributions to the building of the lost boat, but I should think it might be possible to secure new contributions from some of them. I wonder if the name is due to a contribution of the Seminary at Princeton, and if so, whether it would be possible to secure a new contribution from their student body and Alumni Association. The pictures that Dr. Thorne took this summer will be the best promotional material in the world for securing such gifts.

Our situation is such in this Presbytery that a missionary boat is absolutely essential to efficient work. Most of our fields are on islands, and "There ain't no buses runnin' from the Bank to Mandalay". There is no way for us pastors to visit the small churches where lay workers are serving except by boat and the public facilities are so slow that it makes it impractical to use them. There are many small communities entirely unchurched and the Princeton has been their only pastor. Also, she has been a great help to us in holding our annual gatherings--Presbytery, Presbyterial Society, and Young People's Conference; and, as you know, she also gathers the students for Sheldon Jackson School in the fall and takes them home in the spring. These things might not sound important in New York, but they are mighty important to us who are facing the realities of the work in this region. Could not the matter be presented to the Board at their coming meeting together with a showing of Dr. Thorne's pictures? Perhaps it would be worthwhile for one of us who has worked on the Princeton to go outside for a time and help in making a campaign for the new boat. Another possibility would be to secure Walter Soboleff, soon to graduate at Dubuque, for this service.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours

*Jackson L. Webster*

Jackson L. Webster

JLW:bw

Enclosure

Copy to Mr. Pederson

# First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

November 4, 1939

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

Dr. C. N. Wonacott  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City, New York

Dear Dr. Wonacott:

At the present time you are sending my monthly salary check to the bank in Grants Pass, Oregon. Will you please change this and send the check to me at Sitka from now on?

I have sent to the Board an inventory of our church furniture and equipment and that of the manse. The part of this belonging to the local church is evaluated at \$1908.00. Would you please inform me as to the possibility of insuring this property through the Board? If you could send me an application blank, it would facilitate the matter and help us to get coverage sooner.

I know you share with us in the deep regret all Presbyterians must feel in the loss of the Princeton. She has done a vast amount of useful work and helped greatly in the building up of our church in Alaska. We hope that all the officers and members of the Board will immediately undertake the task of building a new boat to take her place. I do not know who made the large contributions to the building of the lost boat, but I should think it might be possible to secure a new contribution from their student body and Alumni Association. The pictures that Dr. Thorne took this summer will be the best promotional material for securing such gifts.

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With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours

Jackson L. Webster

JLW:bw

*Received from Office  
11/14/39*

*Looking to  
see if being  
served by  
Princeton*



Nov.  
17th  
1939

Rev. Mr. Jackson L. Webster,  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Webster:

I have your letter of November 4th and note what you say about having sent Mr. Pederson an inventory of the furnishings and equipment of the Sitka church and manse. Since we have not received this information from Pederson, I am returning to you the inventory sheet which we sent to you. Please itemize the Board's possessions and let me have the sheet back again as soon as you can. I am sure that it will cause you some extra time and trouble to do this, but it is the best policy to follow.

Our insurance department informs me that they will be glad to include the equipment at Sitka in the Board's insurance coverage. You should write to Dr. L. H. Tribus, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, informing him of the amount of insurance you desire to carry and the nature of the equipment. It will be necessary for you to distinguish between Board-owned and church-owned property.

I think you are right about the Juneau Memorial Church. You forget about that church or any other church and give yourself to your present field.

We have not yet decided what will be the best policy to follow in replacing the Princeton. We are receiving numerous letters telling of the great place that the boat occupied in our Alaska work.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BB

# First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

November 22, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

If you will look at the November number of "Jack and Jill" you will see a picture of Mother Bear putting out a card for the milkman "No More Milk Till Spring". Your letter of November fourth makes me wonder if you are a victim of the fallacy that all Alaska goes to sleep with the bears for the winter! The fact is that the winter is the busiest time in our church year and the period of greatest opportunity to get things done.

That is why we are disappointed in your proposal that we lay our building project away until next spring. We have already been delayed for four years and hope that you will help us toward settlement and action as quickly as possible. One way that you can help us is by talking the whole project over with us frankly by mail.

I know that it would be much more satisfactory if we could do our talking here on the ground. It would be most joy to us if you could come at once and get acquainted at first hand with our situation at Sitka. But I do not think that that desire justifies us in laying the matter away for six months. Most of our Alaska business has to be done by mail. If nothing was ever settled with the Board until the secretary in charge visited the field, there would be mighty little going on in these presbyteries. During the eleven years I have been at Sitka, one secretary, Dr. Montgomery, came here once, for one hour. Dr. Somern-like planned to come many times; but he never arrived. I hope you will be more successful in this respect; but I do not want to make this hope a reason for delay.

We are glad of your agreement that we need a new building and your interest in our plans. I wish you would tell us what are the "details that we must clear before any program can be promoted." One, we know, is the matter of location.

All but two of our nine elders have been in Sitka longer than I have; and our unanimous conviction that the church should be rebuilt on its present location is based



on years of experience with the work here and a deep desire for the success of Christ's work in our community. We hope you will believe this, Dr. King. We have sometimes felt that our judgment in this matter was under suspicion, and that when anyone disagreed with us in the matter, however limited their knowledge of Sitka's present day needs and conditions, their judgment had more weight with the Board than ours.

We have seen the two church plan (one for whites and one for natives) tried and abandoned. We have seen the "white church" building, in the business district, sold and made into an apartment house. We have seen the united church, on the Sheldon Jackson School Campus and fronting on the main street of our town, grow steadily in numbers and in financial and spiritual strength.

The church members are unanimous in their desire to rebuild on the same site. One reason for this is the fact that S.J.S. is the strongest link between whites and natives in Sitka. The native members fear that if the church is moved away from the school they will lose their equal status in the membership. The white members sympathize with this feeling of our native brethren and are eager to preserve the strategic value of the campus location. Another reason for staying where we are is the economy of free ground and free light. Another reason is that there is no suitable location available down town. It would be poor business to move closer to the Episcopal Church (between us and the business district). And it would be poorer still to build a new building alongside the one we deserted and sold two years ago.

Miss Voss questioned the wisdom of having the church on the school campus because of difficulties she has seen with the "town and gown" problem. Much more divisive in Sitka is the race problem. And in that the school helps greatly to draw the two race groups together. Miss Voss proposed buying the property of the Episcopal Church and Dr. Somerndike took the matter up with their board. The answer was a resounding No from the bishop.

I know of no one in Alaska who approves of the united church and disapproves of the campus location. Presbytery has approved of the present site at each of its last three annual meetings.

If there are other aspects of the matter which we have not considered please point them out to us, and let us know what else has to be done before we can get the board's approval to start building. We plan to use volunteer labor to a considerable extent; and it will take us two more years after the matter is settled before we can have a new building.

Hoping to hear from you again, I am

Cordially yours,

*Jackson R. Webster*  
J. L. Webster

# First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

December 6, 1939

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York City, New York

Dear Dr. King,

Enclosed is the inventory and appraisal of church and manse furnishings which you have asked for again in your letter of November 17th. With the approval of the session, I have listed all these furnishings as the property of the First Presbyterian Church of Sitka. We do this with the understanding that it involves complete responsibility for maintenance and replacement. I am sending a copy of the inventory to Mr. Tribus with the request that he arrange insurance for us at our expense.

We discussed the matter of church property quite thoroughly at our session meeting last week; and I was instructed to correspond with you regarding the possibility of having the title to church and manse transferred from the Board to our church. It is our earnest desire to become a self-supporting church at the earliest possible date; and the session feels that taking over the responsibility for this property will be a proper step in that direction. It will relieve the Board of responsibility for repairs at Sitka, for which you have already appropriated seventy five dollars this year.

The manse is built on a piece of ground which was part of the original government grant to the mission. Title to this ground was transferred to the Men's Board of Home Missions, I believe, about thirty years ago. The church site has never been so separated from the larger property and will have to be surveyed before a deed can be granted to the church. A clause should be included in the deed, stipulating that title will return to the Board, should the building cease to be used by the Presbyterian Church. Such a clause operated in the deed to the property of the local "White Church", which the Board sold two years ago.

You do not mention in your letter our appeal for help in ministering to the sudden influx of Naval Air Station workers. Perhaps you mean your silence to speak louder than words your disapproval of our request. However, the need and opportunity seem very real to us; and we hope you will answer our letter on this matter.



Dr. Everett B. King

-2-

December 6, 1963

Yesterday's mail brought your Christmas card, and I want to thank you sincerely for its kindly thought and prayer. I am praying for you too, Dr. King, and feel certain that God will give you His great gifts of love and wisdom and strength during the coming year.

We are working and praying for a deep revival of Spirit-filled Christianity in our church and town; and it is coming. I know; for it has already reached me. A group of church leaders are meeting as a prayer group and working as a visitation committee. We can see buds in ourselves and others and are preparing for a harvest. We are getting back to the fundamental Christian principle that God must change us before we will be used to transform anyone else.

Sincerely yours,

*Jackson L. Webster*

Jackson L. Webster

Dec.  
11th  
1939

Rev. Mr. Jackson L. Webster,  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Webster:

I have your letter of the 22nd and see that you are enthusiastic about starting your new building. I am glad that you are in that frame of mind. However, from all the reports that I have been able to gather, I am quite sure of this: that there is much dissatisfaction in the air about the location of that building. Since this building is not to be a temporary affair, and since no small amount of money will be invested in it, I am confident that it would be a mistake to start a building program until the atmosphere is cleared.

My suggestion about waiting until after I had visited the field was not to intimate that I was taking the place of a czar or dictator, but it was only in the interests of the church. After visiting the field, and after conferences with the people, we might come to a friendly agreement. Ofttimes an eye that is seeing the whole situation from a distance and without any preconceived ideas or prejudices, is in a better position to give a true picture than the one who is in the midst of the difficulty.

I am asking you to be patient, and you may be able to save time and avoid no small amount of difficulty by waiting a while.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BN



Dec.  
19th  
1939

Rev. Mr. Jackson L. Webster,  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Webster:

In your letter of December 6th you again mention the matter of a Naval Base station. I am mindful of the fact that you are experiencing an influx of a large number of people. That of course exaggerates the problem that you are facing in connection with your church. I wish it were possible for our budget to offer you assistance, but as you probably know we are working under a limited budget and it is impossible to grant you any help.

I am not trying to tell you how to conduct your own affairs, but it seems to me that this is a splendid opportunity for you to organize your church and utilize the leadership that you have in a very constructive way. Why would it not be an excellent plan for you to call on the Sheldon Jackson School for assistance in your church plan?

In regard to changing the title of your church property, you will avoid any difficulty by waiting until we have been able to talk this matter through in March.

Thanks for sending the complete inventory that we are filing in the office.

Cordially yours,

HBK:BN

Tuesday, December 19, 1939

THE SITKA

# JOHN NEWELL

## DIES ~~THURSDAY~~

*Monday 11 p.m.*

John Newell, 80, a native resident of Sitka, died at 11 o'clock Thursday evening at his home, following a month of serious illness. He will be buried Saturday afternoon in the Mission cemetery, following a funeral service at the Presbyterian church.

He lived in Sitka most of his life, and remembered the Alaskan purchase, for he was a small boy at the time. He had been confined to his bed for over a month.

According to his many friends, he was one of the most respected persons among the native people in Alaska possessed friends in most of the cities of Alaska.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. John Newell, and two children who live in Sitka. Mrs. John Strand and Mrs. Roscoe Max, daughters, survive him, as well as one neice, Mrs. Charley Moses, of Hoonah, and one nephew, Ralph Young, Sr., of Sitka. He is also survived by several grandchildren. *Elder, Marriage 1901*



slovakia, and Moscicki of Poland. . . .

Then Stalin stepped out with the most unholy campaign of all, girding the little countries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to his belt before ever he moved on Finland.

It is amusing now to recall that last June and July Herr Hitler was telling the world he had no designs on his small neighbors, and was proving it by signing non-aggression treaties with the Letts, the Lithuanians and the Estonians. What need had they for his assurances when already Stalin was getting ready for the kill? At the same time Hitler was offering the Scandinavians non-aggression pacts, but they were afraid and did not sign. Now they know that Hitler has his hands full with the allies and cannot either hurt or help them at the moment. Der Fuehrer made it a grand gesture by proffering Holland and Belgium new treaties of non-aggression, and they likewise turned thumbs down, for they knew his documents were no good for he always goes home and worries about them. Besides, it gives him something to tear up.

We in America, sharing the defeats with the little nations, knowing clearly in our minds that right is still right, are marking down on our own records the

# First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

Feb. 5, 1940

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

Rev. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King,

We are all glad to know that you are really coming to visit us. I am sure that it will help us all to get acquainted.

Regarding your visit to our presbytery, I want to urge you to take a member of the presbytery with you as a travelling companion. My suggestion is that Mr. Pederson go, as chairman of the N. M. Committee. I am confident that it will double the amount you learn of our fields and our problems. I have suggested that he plan to have you spend the Easter weekend at Wrangell so as to make this possible.

A recent letter from Walter Soboleff asks me to arrange for his ordination in June on his new field. We will have to decide about this at the meeting of presbytery. The judgement of the N. M. Committee is that he should be placed in one of our village churches such as Hoonah or Kake. The best foundation for future strength will be a successful ministry in a village like the one where he was born. We believe it would be a mistake to send him to Juneau as a first field.

At our last session meeting, I read your letter of Dec. 11th. You will smile when I tell you that they instructed me to write and ask you who are the people who oppose the present location. The church members are unanimously in favor of it. Looking forward to seeing you,

Sincerely Yours,

*Jackson L. Webster*

(of new field)



April 19, 1940

Rev. Mr. J. L. Webster  
Sitka, Alaska

Air Mail

Dear Mr. Webster:

I have today received a letter from Mr. Wheeler, and here is what he said: "But we decided to leave the final decision up to the doctors. They both decided that it would be inadvisable with her sinus trouble for us to go to such a wet climate. Then too, I think our decision ought to be "No" for at least another year because our Native people feel so badly about losing the meeting of Presbytery with you present this year."

This statement on his part needs no explanation. It simply means that our trade and move that we had contemplated will not be possible. I am sorry that plans have not worked out so that you could be moved from Sitka to some field in Alaska.

I remember in our little conference together that you said that you felt so keenly that the time had come when you ought to make a change, that you would want to come to the States if this transfer was not worked out. At the time you made the statement, I did not think very much about it. In fact, I was too hopeful that the transfer could be made and that you would be serving in Haines. But now we must face reality. You certainly have given of yourself in the work and in the Territory. You have no apologies to make to anyone, and you have no regrets to carry around with you. Therefore, I believe it wise and best for us to carry through your suggestion. I shall be very glad to help you secure work in the States. If you will let me know what section of the country you prefer, I will immediately get out some feelers. I think it might also be wise, if you felt so moved, to notify some of your friends of our decision. Of course, this decision is not a matter of throwing you out. It is simply a decision that we have reached mutually that your work in Sitka has been completed, and that the time has come for you to make a change. Since there is no opening for your services in Alaska, there isn't anything else to be done, except for you to come to the States.

I fully appreciate now more than I did when I talked to you, your fine spirit in this matter. We are not going to let you down. We must not be over-anxious about the move. Of course, if it is possible to make the change during the summer before Sheldon Jackson begins in the fall, that would be best.

I am asking you to join me in prayer that the Lord who has led us this far will open up the way for us in the days ahead. If we do more praying, I think we can trust him to do the greater part of the leading.

Remember me kindly to all of the family.

Cordially yours,

EBK:E

# First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Jackson L. Webster  
Pastor

May 2, 1940

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

Rev. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King,

*atta-*  
Thankyou for your good letter of April 19th. I'm glad I know the fellow that wrote it. I can't find anything in it to argify about, except some kindly statements about myself; but we'll pass over them.

As to a new location, we would like to stay in one of the western synods, partly for the sake of being near Mrs. Webster's father and mother and my uncle and aunt who are getting near the end of the trail. They are in Berkeley, Calif., so northern California would be best from that standpoint. However, anywhere in the west would be allright, coast region preferred and rural or town, rather than a large city. We want to find the place God wants us to be and to do the work He plans for us.

In some ways we hateto leave Alaska; but I rather think it is for the best. Mrs. Webster will be sorry to leave her work as Presbyterial Society president; and I will leave a big chunk of my heart among these islands and people. I have wondered whether Pederson was thinking of leaving Wrangell permanently. He said in a recent letter that he wished it could be arranged for us to take their place while they were outside, and again, that he would be willing to come back to some other field if that seemed best. However, his family situation is the same as mine; and there is no other field now vacant in the presbytery where you could place him. So it seems best for us to decide on going outside.

Would it be possible to use me for promotional speaking this summer? Perhaps I could be of some use to the Board in that way and also solve the horrible problem of "candidating." I know most of the people and places in Fred Thorne's pictures and might be able to serve in connection with them. The Synod of Washington will pay my boat fare, and I could come immediately if you could use me. School will be closing in a few days.



I am writing some friends as you suggest, asking for their help in securing a charge. But I know from experience that they can do nothing for me without my being on hand. In case you take me up on the promotional speaking idea, please write Rev. Stanly A. Hunter, pastor of St. John's Church in Berkeley, and Moderator of the Synod of California this year. He is a good friend of ours and would be of great help in arranging speaking engagements in California.

With Kindest regards,

Cordially Yours,

*Jackson A. Webster*

May 10, 1940

Rev. Mr. Jackson Webster  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Webster:

Thank you for your letter with its beautiful spirit manifested, dated May 2nd. I think we are seeing the picture from the same viewpoint, and as a result we ought not to have any difficulty in working the thing out.

I am impressed with your offer to do promotional speaking this summer. That will fit into my plans exactly, and if you want to you can make arrangements to pick up and leave for the States the early part of the summer. I will so write to Dr. Hunter at Berkeley, and ask him to set up some speaking engagements for you during the summer and early fall. This would afford you a double opportunity. First of all, it would give you an opportunity to encourage the people in their giving to Alaska, and second, it would enable you to get your bearings here in the States before taking up a new work.

wrote  
5/10/40  
u

Please wire me the date that we can expect you to be in the States.

Cordially yours,

EBK:E





ON BOARD S.S.

Wt. McKinley  
May 23, 1940

Dear Dr. King,

Answering your letter of  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> regarding the Petoskey  
field, it sounds mighty  
interesting and worthwhile,  
but I would prefer to stay on  
the Pacific Coast if the way  
opens, for the sake of our  
families. Michigan is most  
as far from Berkeley as Alaska.  
However, I will probably know  
by the time I see you at Dyrud  
whether there are any doors open  
to us on the coast. If not, I  
will of course be ready to

take a field further away.

My expectation is that I will be in Seattle or vicinity for the coming week, or more. Hope then to spend some time in Oregon before going on south to California. I will let Dr. Hunter know as soon as possible when I can reach there.

If I am to do promotional work for the Board, I am hoping to find pictures available. I know they will add a great deal to the effectiveness of my efforts.

Will you be able to help me on travelling expenses? I family funds are low and I hope to avoid going in the red.



If you can make me an advance,  
address me in care of Dr. Thomson  
in Seattle or L. H. Kibbe, 33 Eucal-  
yptus Road, Berkeley, Calif.

In view of your decision to build  
a new Princeton, I am wondering  
if you will want me to make a  
special effort to raise funds for  
that purpose. I have lots of ex-

perience in connection with the  
old boat that would make good  
ammunition. How about printing  
some pledge cards and offering the  
envelopes? Perhaps we could raise the  
whole \$15,000. on this coast and change  
the name of the boat to San Anselmo!  
What do you say?

I received your letter of May 10<sup>th</sup>  
on Monday and left the next day. We  
will be in Seattle Saturday morning  
and am expecting that Dr. Thomson  
will have some engagements  
made for me for Sunday. Hope to  
hear from you again before going on south.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Jackson R. Webster

P. S.

How about the possibility of sending a  
supply to take care of Sitka and Wrangell?  
We are taking care of for June but it would  
be fine to have someone for July. Then Pedron  
will be leaving Wrangell Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>.

May 29, 1940

Air Mail

Rev. Mr. Jackson D. Webster  
c/o L. H. Kibbe  
33 Eucalyptus Road  
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Webster:

Enclosed you will find a check for \$100.00 for your travel expense during your promotional work. You will please send me an itemized statement of these expenses, so that I can keep my records clear.

In regard to the pictures, you already have the word that I sent in my letter of May 23rd. You can obtain the stereopticon lectures on Alaska at the San Francisco office, 234 McAllister St. San Francisco.

I am going to be greatly interested in what you do and the results that you have. In regard to "The Princeton" I do not feel that you would have the privilege of presenting the appeal for special gifts for this cause. The Board took action voting to replace the boat, but also requesting that the special funds be secured through the Princeton group. That restricts our field for this definite project. The Princeton group is at work on the program. However, I do feel that you would be at perfect liberty to present the appeal for \$2,000.00 to care for the salary and the expense of a Sunday School Missionary who will be on the boat. If you can find churches or Sunday School classes that will definitely subscribe to the full support of this missionary, the missionary can be designated as their missionary. In connection with your experiences with the old boat, you ought to be able to tell some appealing stories that will help to take care of this missionary.

I hope you will let me have your itinerary when you get it set up, in order that we may keep things clear here in the office.

Mr. Pederson has not written me as to the definite time when he was leaving Wrangell. Your information that he was to leave August first was news. I hope we can find some supply for these two fine fields. They ought not to go vacant.

Cordially yours,

ALASKA

EBK:E  
enc.



JACKSON L. WEBSTER  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SITKA, ALASKA

June 5, 1940

Rev. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

Thank you for the check for \$100.  
and your letter of May 29<sup>th</sup>. I am  
mailing the check to Mrs. Webster  
for deposit in our account and will  
draw against it as I have need.  
My travelling expenses are small  
because of living mostly with  
relatives. I will send you an  
account - or better give it to you  
at Synod in Spokane.

As to an itinerary, I have  
decided to stay in this San Fran-  
cisco area during June. I already  
have several dates made and will  
have the month full soon I think.  
I have offered to speak to Sunday Schools,  
Young People's societies, missionary  
societies and any other groups,  
as well as churches.

After talking with some of  
the leading men around the bay,  
I judge it will be wiser for me

not to make any appeal for pledges  
or special gifts. I will simply  
present the values of the work in  
Alaska and seek to arouse interest  
in it and loyalty to it. There is a  
little bad feeling toward the Board  
because of the failure of any scheme  
to share benevolent funds with  
Presbyterian projects not in the hands  
of the Board.

I have made one date for Port-  
land in July and ~~and~~ will prob-  
ably spend that month in Washington  
and Oregon. I will let you know  
as I get further dates made.

Please give me any news you  
may have on Alaskan work, such as  
the new Princeton. Have you let the  
contract. I saw the plans in Gene  
Gould's office and thought they were  
fine, with one exception - not enough  
banks. One of her main tasks is  
carrying groups to S. J. S., presbytery,  
Y. P. S. conference, etc. And it will  
greatly increase her usefulness to  
add to the number and size of the banks.  
I have spent some hard nights and  
know whereof I speak.

With best regards,  
Yours sincerely,

Jack Webster



June 11, 1940

Rev. Mr. Jackson L. Webster  
33 Eucalyptus Road  
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Webster:

I am glad to get your letter of June 5 and learn of your plans.

I am not at all surprised about the attitude of the men in regard to special gifts. I rather expected that and I know it will work out to the best interest for you to seek the loyalty and interest of the church at large in our work in Alaska. You will, however, have opportunities of talking to individuals and, if and when the opportunity presents itself, you may find some special gift in that manner. It may also be possible for you to enlist the interest of Sunday School classes or different organizations.

In all that you do, you must not violate the will or the interest of the men out West.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

ALASKA

33 Eucalyptus Road  
Berkeley, Calif.  
June, 19, 1940

Ans/  
Rev. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Dr. King,

I am going strong in the S. F. Bay district now and am dated up through June. I spoke six times in twenty four hours the last weekend, including one radio broadcast. We include both slides and prints, take pictures, both slides and prints, take very well and arouse a lot of interest. I have used them six times already. If you have not sent sets of the big prints to Dr. Thomson at Seattle, I hope you will do it so I can use them up there in July.

I have made engagements here through June and may possibly accept another for July 7<sup>th</sup> before going to Spokane for Synod. I am dated in Portland for July 21<sup>st</sup> and Seattle July 28<sup>th</sup>. Will probably get dates for July 14<sup>th</sup> in one of the northern synods. As to a new pastorate, the only church which seems like a real prospect is Montclair, Oakland. It is a small church receiving



help from the Board, under Clyde Smith's jurisdiction. But it has a fine opportunity to develop into a strong church in a rapidly growing district of the city. I preached there last Sunday. The pastor has resigned and will finish his work July 20th. Whether I am the man Smith and the session will want remains to be seen.

Do you want me to resign my pastorate at Sitka? I am troubled at the thought of its remaining vacant so long. I feel as though I should go back August first or else resign as of that date, so that you can send a new pastor in. The only other solution would be a temporary supply. How do you feel about it?

I will be at this same address throughout June and possibly through July 7th.

Sincerely yours,  
Jackson L. Webster

July 2, 1940

Rev. Mr. Jackson L. Webster  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Webster:

Mr. Archer C. Sinclair, a member of the General Council of the Presbyterian Church, will be on board the Canadian Pacific cruiser "Princess Charlotte" scheduled to arrive in Sitka at 11 A.M. (PST), Saturday, August 10. He will be there until 5 P.M. the same day.

I shall appreciate your getting in touch with Mr. Sinclair and helping him to enjoy his visit.

Cordially yours,

DH

ALASKA



July 2, 1940

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. J.L. Webster  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Mr. Webster:

Miss Emma Jessie Ogg, a member of our Board of National Missions, will be in Sitka July 30 to August 1. She will arrive on a Canadian Pacific cruiser. I shall appreciate your getting in touch with her and helping her to enjoy her visit.

We have written to Miss Ogg giving her your name, so she will be expecting to see you.

Cordially yours,

DH

ALASKA

July 19, 1940

Rev. Mr. J.L. Webster  
Care, Rev. Dr. James Thomson  
1203 American Bank Building  
Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Webster: ~~RECEIVED JUL 20 1940~~

Attached is our check for \$437.50. This covers your transportation from Sitka, Alaska, to Berkeley, California - \$337.50, and your moving expense - \$100.

Cordially yours,

DH

Enclosure

ALASKA



Portland, Ore.  
July 21, '40

Dear Dr. King,

Please count me resigned  
at Sitka as of Sept. 1st. I  
am confident I'll have an-  
other church by that time.  
You must get someone in there  
without delay. If you haven't  
anyone else lined up, I sug-  
gest that you move Ed Knudson  
from Skagway. They know him  
at Sitka and would love  
to have him. And Mrs.  
Webster tells me he spoke as  
though he would like to come.  
He could do a splendid job  
there and I would be most  
happy to know the work was

in his hands. I wish my  
successor could be an ex-  
perienced man in Alaska  
for the situation there is  
touchy in many ways.

I am going <sup>to the</sup> Y. P.'s con-  
ference in eastern Oregon to-  
morrow and will get back to  
Seattle to meet the family  
July 30<sup>th</sup>. Two oldest boys will  
be staying at Sitka through August.  
Hope to find chuck at Seattle  
when I get there.

Heard lots of appreciative  
echoes of your evangelistic  
talk in connection with  
N. M. report at Synod. I  
have written Sitka church  
that I have resigned without  
mentioning date. Best regards.

Jack Webster

I will be in Berkeley Aug. 1st. Aug. 1st. 3:30 Berkeley. Rk.  
of 1st. 1st. 1st.



Portland, Oregon  
July 22, 1940.

Dear Everett,

Forgot two things in the letter I wrote you yesterday. One was the account which I enclose, the other a California man I wanted to recommend to you for Alaska. His name is Gus Harris, pastor at Garberville. He is a real missionary - has built up several Sunday schools and preaching points in the mountains round about Garberville. I think he will speak to you at Synod. He was interested in Alaska.

I liked him as a cabin mate at Y.P.'s conference but did not hear him preach. He has only been out of school a year or two, so seminary men can tell you about him, such as

Drury.

I'll feed my family on the \$32.50 on hand in Seattle.

Best regards

Jack Webster.

# Account with Bd. of N.M.

	<u>Spent</u>
May 21 Sitka to Seattle	55 00
25 Clergy certificate	2 00
28 Meals in Seattle and room —	9 00
29 to Portland	3 00
meals & taxi	2 00
30 fare & meals to Berkeley	13 00
June	
1-10 carfare & phone to speaking points	3 10
11 San Jose trip	5 60
12-30 carfare & meals	3 20
July Berkeley to Portland paid by Y.P.'s conference.	
meals	3 80
9 Portland to Spokane	4 25
at Spokane	4 20
13 to Seattle	10 00
14 meals in Seattle	2 00
16 to Portland	4 00
meals in Portland	6 00
room .. ..	5 00
22 Eastern <del>to</del> Oregon trip paid by Y.P.'s conference	
29 to Seattle	4 00
Total	139 25

	<u>Received</u>
June 5 from Bd. of N.M.	100 00
30 honorarium	10 00
July 4	7 50
15 from " E. D. King	25 00
	142 50
Surplus	23 25





STUART C. WILLIAMS  
MANAGER

# Mayflower Hotel

OVERLOOKING BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY PARK  
535 SOUTH GRAND AVE., LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

7-26-40

Dear Dorothy -

Please answer Webster's letter by  
air mail and thank him for suggestions  
about Sitka - Say I met Harris & talked to  
him -

In order to keep records straight  
ask Webster to mail me check as his  
convenience for \$25<sup>00</sup> to cover advance I  
made -

Leaving here this afternoon for  
Albuquerque -

Cordially,  
E.S.

July 29, 1940

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. J.L. Webster  
Care, L.H. Kibbe  
33 Eucalyptus Road  
Berkeley, California

Dear Jack:

Thank you for your suggestions about Sitka. I  
met Harris and talked with him.

In order to keep the records straight, please  
send me at your convenience your check for \$25  
to cover the advance I made.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH



33 Euclid Road  
Berkeley, Calif  
Aug. 14, '40

Rev. Everett B. King  
136 Fifth Ave.  
New York N.Y.

Dear Everett,

Just got in last night with part of  
the family and found your letter of  
July 29 waiting. Sorry I did not  
understand you wanted me to return  
the twenty five you gave me in Seattle.  
An enclosing check for it. I included  
it in the account I sent you the  
last of July.

I cannot give an account of our  
moving expenses till we move  
our freight; and still have not  
found a church. Will let you  
know as soon as I can.

Had a nice reunion last Saturday  
with Christiansens and Sherkopers.

Best regards

J. L. Webster

August 27, 1940

Air Mail

Rev. Mr. J. L. Webster  
33 Eucalyptus Road  
Berkeley, California

Dear Jack:

I am sorry that I had to inconvenience you and cause you to send the check. I should have said something to you about it, but it simply slipped my mind. Anyway, that's over with.

I know you are happy in having the family back together, and that the reunion was a joyful occasion.

I do not want to jeopardize the work in Sitka, and I do not want to make you suffer. Therefore, I trust that by September 15th you will have discovered the place where you will serve here in the States, and that the Alaska money can be used for the new Pastor at Sitka. If September 15th is a suitable date for you for me to discontinue your salary, let me know. I have a man that is willing to go to Sitka, and I feel that he will make us a splendid worker. He would be ready to leave around October 1st.

Cordially yours,

BBK:E



33 Eucalyptus Road  
Berkeley, Calif.  
Sept. 14, 1940.

Rev. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Everett,

I have delayed answering your letter of Aug. 27 in hopes that I would be able to tell you of our new location and give a final account of our moving expenses. But I am still waiting to make connections with a new charge; so have not yet shipped our goods from Sitka.

Since we have all come to Berkeley from Sitka and are living here for the present, I thought it would be right to ask for travel expense to Berkeley. This comes to about \$375., omitting my fare to Seattle which was paid by Synod. What freight on our goods will be I can only guess; but my estimate is \$125. In addition to that there is a little furniture which Mrs. Webster left in the manse after conference with church officers, and which they appraised at \$58.

This will come to considerably more than the amount so far paid us for moving. That check you gave me for \$435. does almost exactly square us on fare and furniture, leaving the freight on household goods to be paid.

I know you will have to keep within the budget on this matter, so I suggest that you follow my previous suggestion of accepting my resignation as of Sept. first. Then the salary between that date and the beginning of the new man's work should cover the freight item. Thank you for your kindness in the matter and your suggestion to extend the salary still further; but I don't want to become a problem to you.

My best prospect now is a little church in San Francisco. It will probably come to a settlement within a couple of weeks.

I hope you can get a new man in to Sitka soon. We are losing ground rapidly to the Catholics and Lutherans who have just gone in there.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely Yours  
Jackson L. Webster



September 20, 1940

Rev. Mr. Jackson L. Webster  
35 Eucalyptus Road  
Berkeley, Calif.

Dear Webster:

I suppose you know before this time that we have found a minister for Sitka, Rev. Mr. Willis Booth. I have been impressed with him, and feel that he, together with his fine wife, will make us some splendid leadership in Sitka. He was to write to you in regard to some information about the Manse.

I am going to anxiously await some definite word from you about your location.

Cordially yours,

EDK:E

33 Eucalyptus Road  
Berkeley, Calif.  
Oct. 26, 1940

Rev. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Everett,

I was glad indeed to hear from you the news of Mr. Booth's appointment to the pastorate at Sitka. I had been deeply troubled at the thought of my hungry sheep unfed, and the wolf of denominational competition coming and scattering them. I trust that he may be an excellent shepherd, blessing and building up the flock with his ministry. Mrs. Webster and I liked the tone of the letters we received from Mr. and Mrs. Booth asking about the manse. We have not yet heard from Sitka friends since his arrival.

Immediately on hearing of Mr. Booth's appointment, I had our household goods, which we had left in the manse, shipped here. They have now arrived and I enclose a complete report of our moving expenses, together with an inventory of the furniture which we left in the manse at your suggestion for sale to the Board. I believe the session of the church would be willing to meet the furniture item if you request it. You will remember that we asked the Board last year to give the church title to and complete responsibility for the church properties.

I expect to be located soon in a M. M. parish near here, under the Church Extension Board of the San Francisco Presbytery. I have preached there twice and the sessions of the three churches and the Church Extension Board have approved my call. It waits now for congregational meetings which will be held Sunday, Nov. 3rd. The parish is an area, largely Catholic, in which we have three small churches a few miles apart, which we may be able to unite into one after a few years of building up and together. I am eager to get back into harness again although I have been enjoying the work I have been doing for the past six weeks at the Seminary.

Mrs. Webster and I continue to speak several times a week on Alaskan missions. If you have any special note you want stressed or any appeal you want made for specific aid, let us know.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely Yours,

Jackson L. Webster

*We are holding  
in reserve in Seminary  
for Mr. Webster  
although he offered  
\$43.53  
we can use  
\$1.00*



## MANSE FURNITURE

Ironing Board	\$ .75
Coal Bucket	1.00
Curtain rods	2.00
Hall linoleum	2.00
Fire extinguisher	4.00
Fireplace stool	.75
Wicker set	15.00
Rugs	10.00
Mattress	4.00
Desk	8.00
Floor lamp	3.50
Bath stool	.50
Lawn Mower	1.00
Clothes Basket	.50
Towel racks	1.50
Hoe	1.00
Rake	1.00
Buck saw	1.50

Total --- \$58.00

## MOVING EXPENSES

Tickets Sitka to Seattle	\$237.50
Tickets Seattle to Berkeley	96.70
Berths (Tourist)	15.00
Thirty six meals @ .50	18.00
Crating household goods	7.00
Freight to Seattle	61.87
Freight Seattle to Berkeley	91.30

Total moving expense -- 527.37

Manse furniture 58.00 - 6.3

Total -- 585.37

Received from Board of N. M. 435.00 - for 437.50

Balance due -- 150.37

Balance due 147.87

*Jackson L. Webster*  
Jackson L. Webster

Berkeley, California

October 26, 1940

43.53 sum. 9/1 to 9/14  
104.34 waste 131



November 7, 1940

Rev. Mr. J.L. Webster  
33 Eucalyptus Road  
Berkeley, California

Dear Jack:

Enclosed you will find a check for \$147.87, the balance due you. There was a slight error in your figures. You stated that you had received from the Board \$435, while our check was for \$437.50; therefore, there is a difference in the balance of \$2.50.

I am glad to hear you will be located in your parish near San Francisco. You certainly have been patient about the whole matter and I sincerely trust the work will open up in fine shape.

Give my kindest regards to all the family.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH  
Enclosure



November 8, 1940

Rev. Mr. J.L. Webster  
33 Eucalyptus Road  
Berkeley, California

Dear Mr. Webster:

Through error the check mentioned in my letter to you yesterday was not enclosed. Today I am sending you two checks, one for \$104.34, and the other for \$43.53, totaling \$147.87 which is the balance due you.

Cordially yours,

DH  
Enclosures 2



Newark, Calif.  
Dec. 9, 1940.

Rev. Everett B. King,  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Everett,

I believe that in the stress of moving to our new field, I failed to answer your letter of Nov. 7 and thank you for the remittance of \$147.87. I appreciate the constant kindness you showed me during this hard process of getting transplanted by Presbyterian methods.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely Yours,

Lack Whitton



December 18, 1940

Rev. Mr. J.L. Webster  
Newark, California

Dear Jack:

Thank you for the note. I am sure you have over-estimated our kindness. It was a privilege to share with you in your uncertain days.

Please let me know where you are and what you are doing and give me a description of the church you are serving. Accept our hearty wish for a happy and holy Christmas in your home.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH